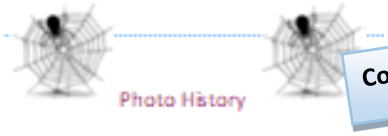
From October 2025

(Volume 199)



Cover Picture

DP Climbing the majestic oak opposite

I am busy preparing the 200th Celebration Volume and it is hard to get my head around the fact that I have actually completed that quantity of Volumes but here I am again. This has become a big part of my daily routine and it is a therapeutic benefit on so many levels. It gives me an outlet to express my thoughts, indulge the creative side of me..maybe I would have been an artist in another existence. It is a great memory store because as I get old I can look back on places, people and times long lost in the depths of my mind. Lynn and I feel that as one gets old the store of memories is so vast that it becomes difficult to pull out certain sections..like a computer requiring additional ram.

Today Amazon spent an unbelievable sum ($100 billion) on acquiring an AI base and this is now so entrenched in our daily lives that many folk don't realise how game-changing this will be. Apparently this really worries analysts too as it is borrowed money based on the investment being sound and if not????

Millions being replaced by robots so what do the redundant workforce do? How will they survive both financially and and also how will they adapt to a world with no jobs? People need a stimulus , an objective, a reason to exist.

Another big issue is how the controlling AI will be in the hands of so few and this will revolutionise how our planet works. Money and power will inevitably be in the wrong hands and philanthropy and care for the community will not feature in the make up of gigantic corporations. Lynn actually hoped AI will go wrong and suddenly it will be seen how wrong it was to rely on it. I disagree however because AI will see the mistakes before they are made and rectify them. I see a world change and a shifting of populations chasing work, easier living and better life styles. This will alter every location and is already showing where the balance of indigenous people are being replaced and overshadowed by a different culture. This is not racist because I think any population shift can destabilise a whole environment This is inevitable and will lead to disharmony and unrest. Nowhere can hide from this and it will prove disastrous.

Water, the other much ignored vital part of life will, in my opinion, be a major contributor to world unrest. Climate change, pollution, increased use of a diminishing resource, overuse of aquifers for agriculture denying local people fair use. Major river being exploited to a level where downstream whole populations are unable to use the water for their own daily purposes. Where these facts take place populations shift location as they are unable to maintain their previous life-style and again this creates instability. I know I sound like a doom and gloom merchant but someone, somewhere has to appreciate that we can not continue this way. The rich now have such vast fortunes that the average person can't comprehend this. However wealth does not equate with intelligence and forward thinking. A workforce deprived of work and ambition is not a sign of progress. Where are the support protocols catering for a whole population unable to secure employment? A world view is so important and everyone, every country, every individual (and I include myself) put 'own interests' first without even contemplating how the long term effects will ripple back. A classic example in my case is frequenting large supermarkets rather than the small shops with the inevitable result that they close due to lack of custom. My use of Amazon for so much because of convenience and price, again puts small businesses under so much pressure that they can't survive. I do feel guilty but I, like everyone else, am hypocritical. It needs a strong force to say.."*Stop..we must rethink what is happening round us"* and legislate for the common good.. Not locally...but internationally. I can see the problems but I don't profess to have the answers. Maybe, dear friends, one of you reading this will be inspired and lead the change for good. I won't be around to se it ..but my legacy might live on ..who knows..

OK...this volume continues on a more positive note, because one can't go through life being Percy Pessimist

November 2025

The new path from opposite Botany Bay Farm shop is now almost completed and a little way down this path on the left is a small path that was very overgrown and we cleared up the path alongside a hidden large pond and also saw what appeared to be a badgers set. I set up my trail camera there too

Lunch break

Clearing a fallen tree from the path

Badgers Set (?)

Lilly and Sue

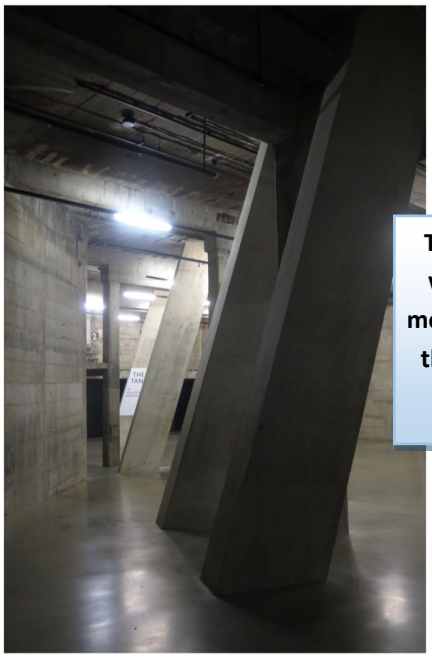
The cleared path

The start of the-side path

The 'Lads walk in September was round the Brockley Estate and we enjoyed some great countryside

There were several exhibitions at The Tate Modern and sometimes the settings and the people viewing them provide some great shots. Even if the actual exhibitions are, in some cases, less than inspiring

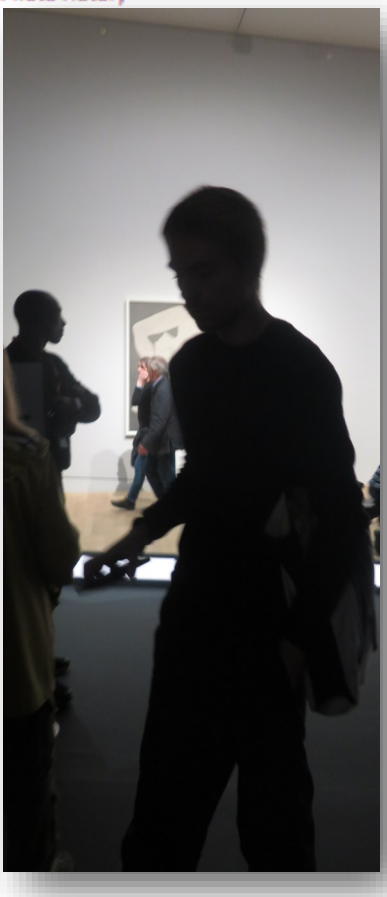
Work in progress in the Turbine Hall

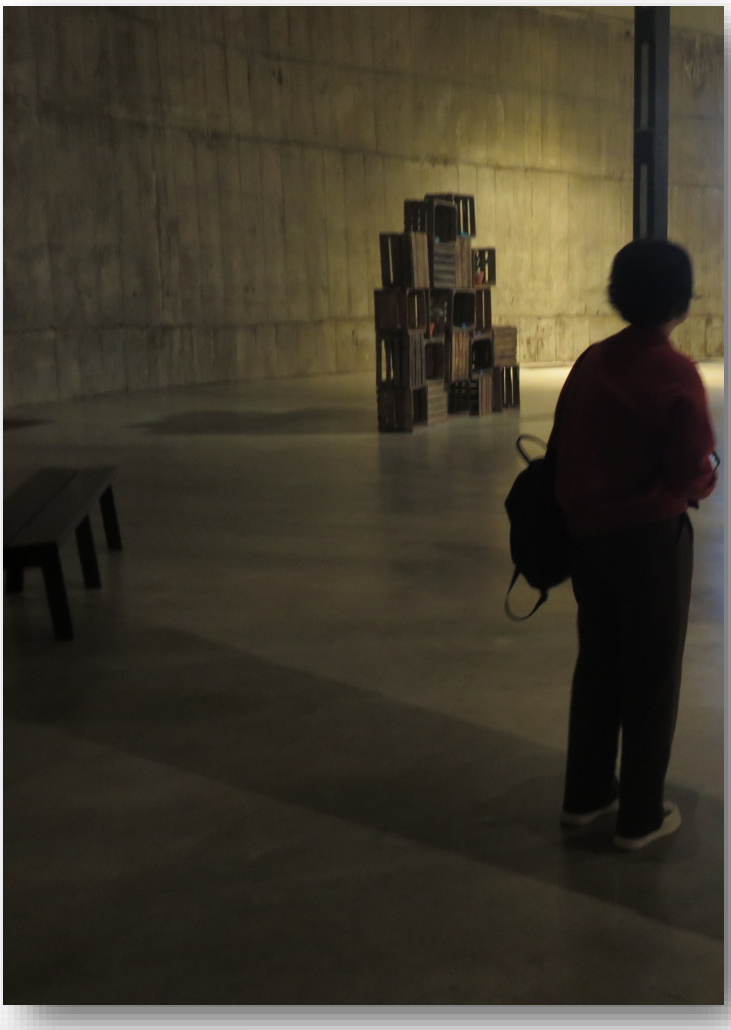


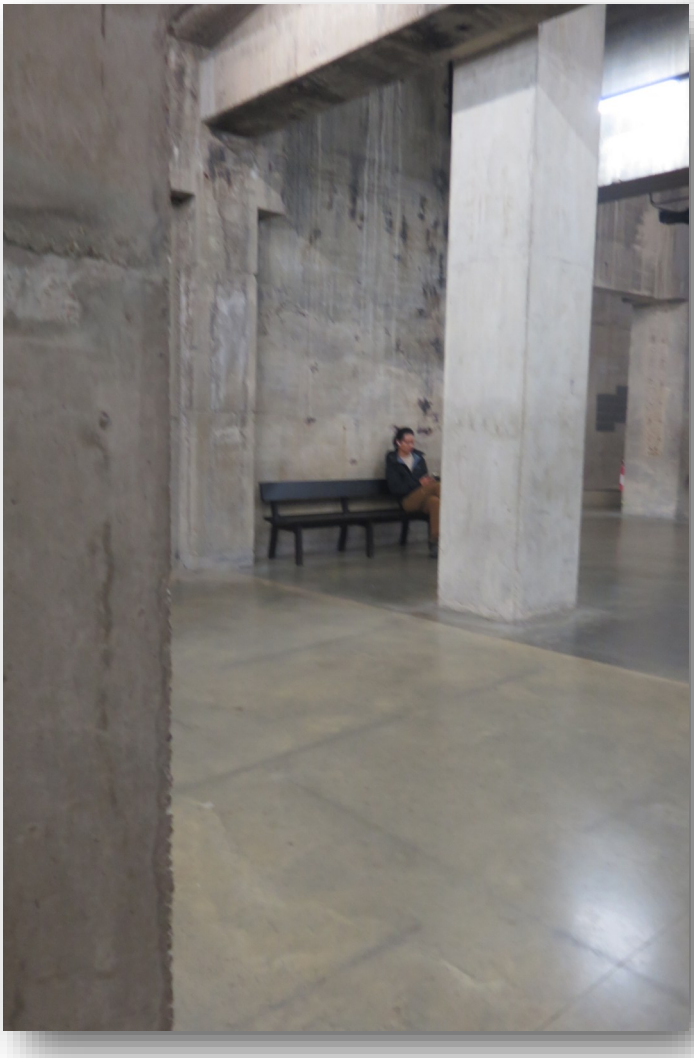
This setting was (I felt) more inspiring than the art work)

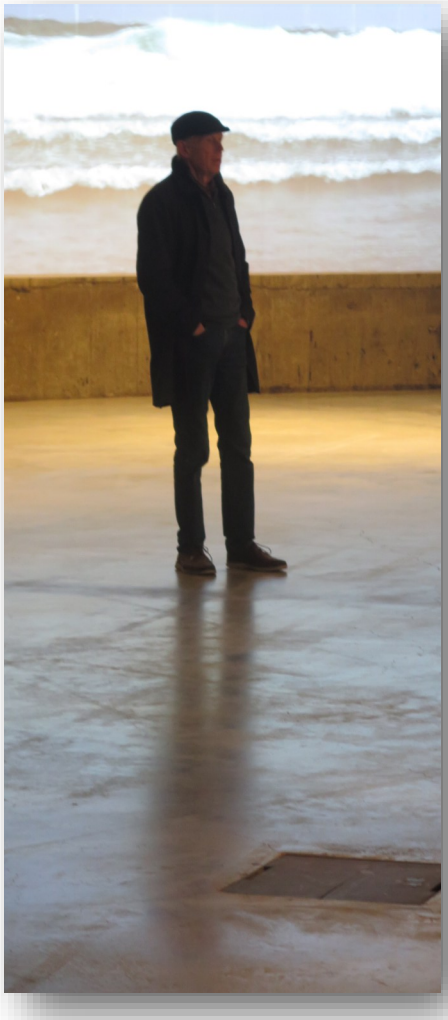
often poetic. Giacometti found strange significance and meaning in these works. He explained: 'I can sometimes recognise images, impressions and experiences – transformed and displaced – which have moved me very deeply, often without me being aware of it.'

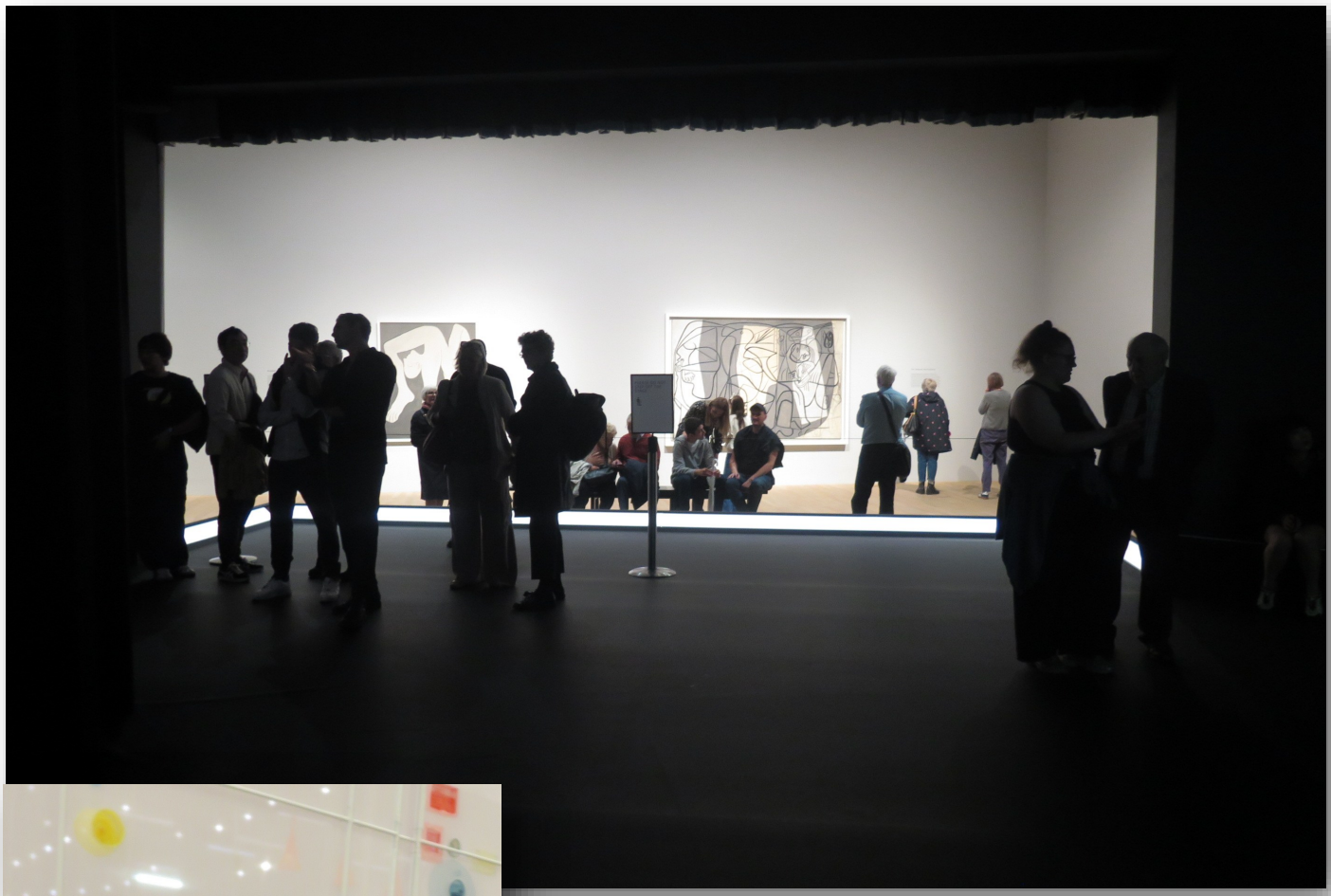
I love this....

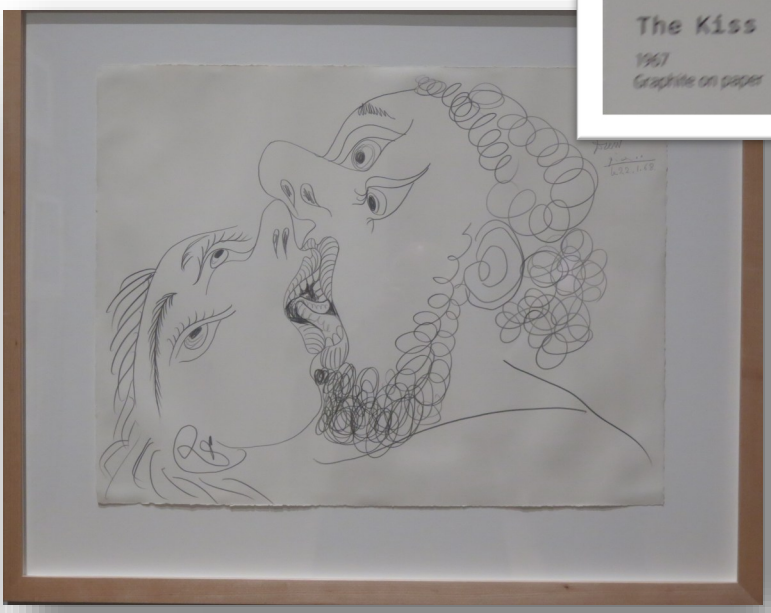











The Kiss
1967
Graphite on paper

Self Portrait, 1907
Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

TheATre
PICASSO

Photo History

Mari Katayama born 1987
Born and works Japan

bystander #014 2016, printed 2021
Photograph, digital C-print on paper with artist's frame

In this self-portrait, Katayama is wearing one of her soft sculptures made from stuffed textile arms. She is lying down on Naoshima Island in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. Made during the artist's residency there, the hands and arms represent both Katayama and residents from the local community. The *bystander* series is the first time other people's bodies featured in her work. Stitched with small pearls and decorated with white lace, the sculpture appears to be part of her body yet also alien to her at the same time. This may suggest both the difficulty and the power of living with others, which Katayama encountered during the residency.

Purchased with funds provided by the Photography Acquisitions Committee 2022. P82669

Maybe it's the weird side of me but I thought that maybe the pillar would be carried off by these small guys and when the people finished on their phones they wouldn't even notice!!..told you I am weird..

At a Tate Exhibition of photography I went into a side gallery displaying war photographs from the day when Allied troops entered a concentration camp.

There was a sign outside this side room warning of graphic images.

I came to a photo of a pile of human bones which apparently haven't been hidden by the guards when they heard about advancing troops.

They were no longer discernable as human beings and this is the graphic terrible memory I have of my grandparents.

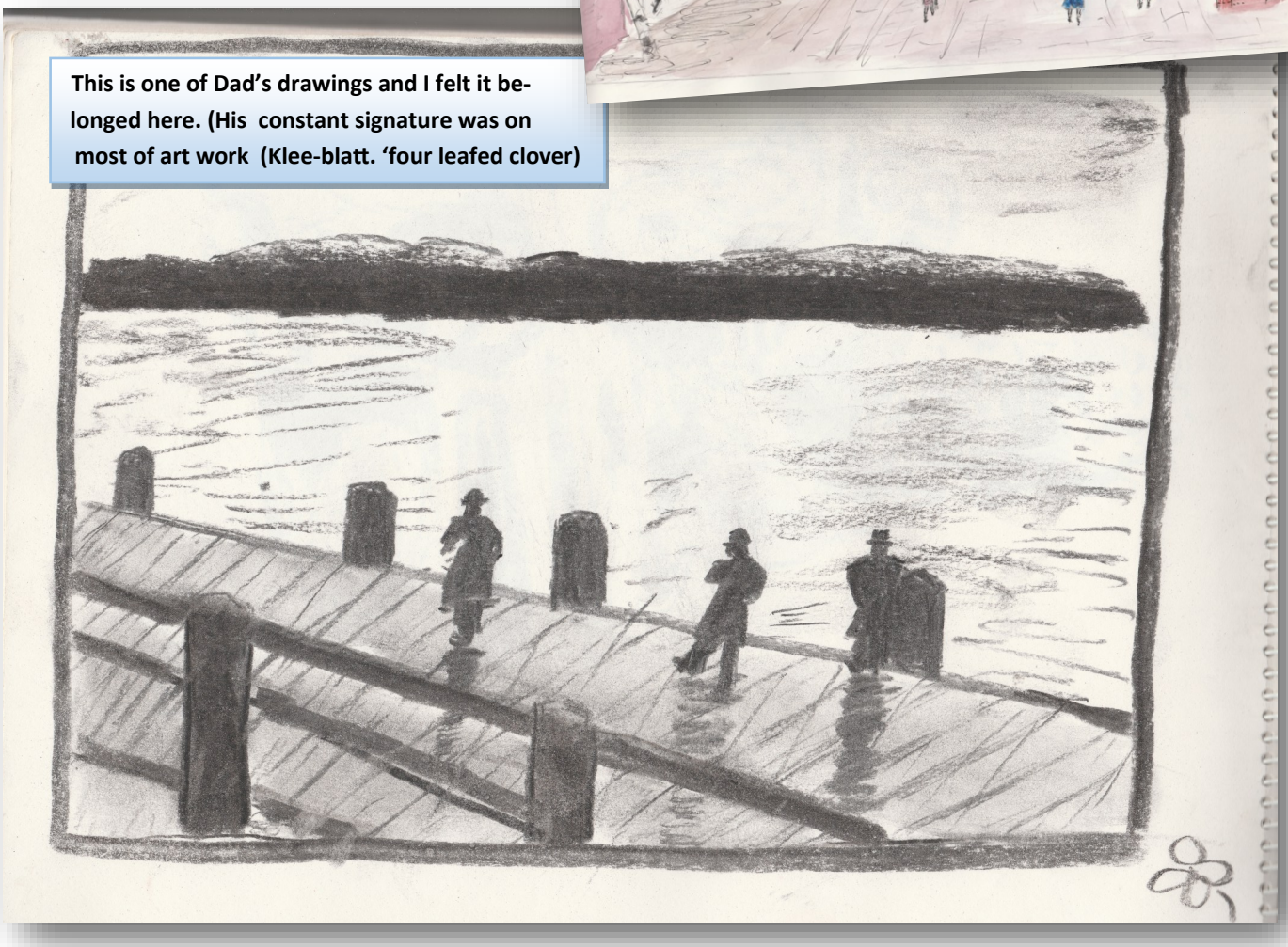
Lynn and I adore our grandchildren and hope that the memories we leave behind are happy and joyful.

Sadly, due to man's inhumanity to man, I was denied this simple pleasure.

I can't really comprehend how Dad lived his life knowing this.

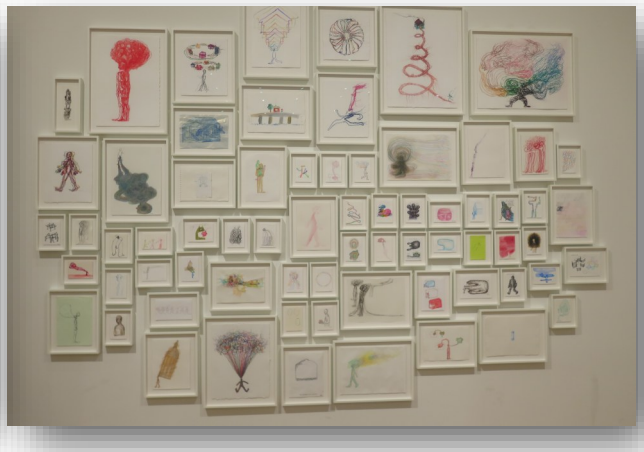
Sorry to be morbid but some things are better said

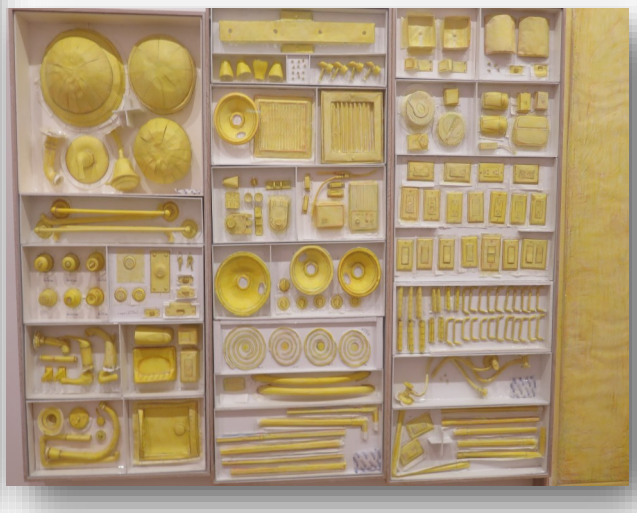
Godesburg on a return visit to his home town on The Rhine



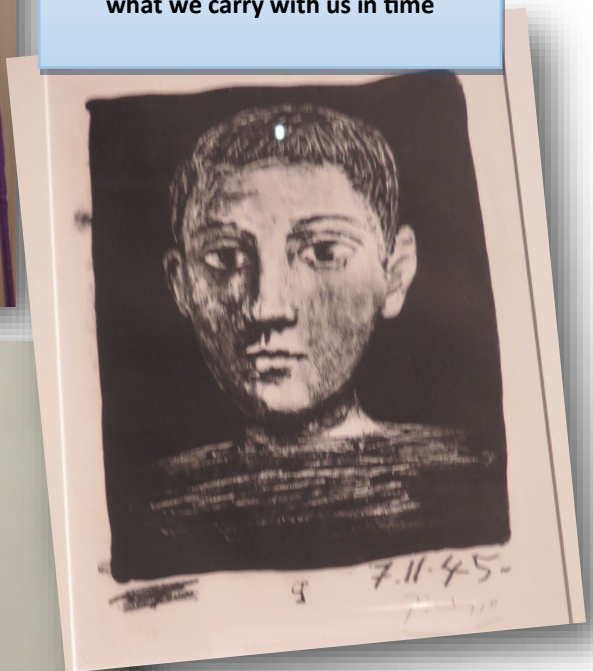
This is one of Dad's drawings and I felt it belonged here. (His constant signature was on most of art work (Klee-blatt. 'four leafed clover)

Back to the present day… Do Ho Suh (Korean) had a fascinating exhibition that we initially thought we'd just pay a quick visit to. It was really special. He 'rubbed' his New York home and then his London home and he transcribed the everyday images he was familiar with Suh has worked with threads embroidered on gelatine tissue paper to collapse a three-dimensional form onto a two-dimensional plane. Like the fabric architectures, which can be packed away like clothing, this process allows Suh to create portable versions of meaningful spaces.





Suh and Rebecca made these tunics with specially sewn pockets for their two children who chose their favourite contents. They became markers for what we carry with us in time



My volumes seem to be filled with various art works from an eclectic variety of artists and styles but I guess we enjoy very different art to many people and this is our way of reminding us of our favourites

Maybe this style of living appeals to some folk but we think it is alien to us and that is the way things are progressing in cities world wide. Lack of privacy and outdoor space make it anathema to us

This unfinished tower block towers over Blackfriars Station on the South Bank

October 2025 and the East ern Gateway of The Enfield is almost completed so Lynn and I walked the circuit (around 5.5 miles without too many detours) to see the great variety of views and leaves changing colour. The trees planted over the years are now (in some cases) showing great progress and we were so happy to see how it all is coming together .

The new path before it officially opens–opposite Botany Bay Farm Shop

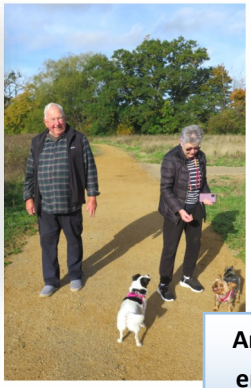
Some of our recent plantings with some wonderful mature oaks in the background

One of the rest areas with the remaining planted tree (some failed and some were vandalized)

Lynn and I (with other volunteers, recently mulched the new trees here)

The final sanding of the top path near The Royal Chase development

This rest area (by The Farm Shop) will open to the public next week

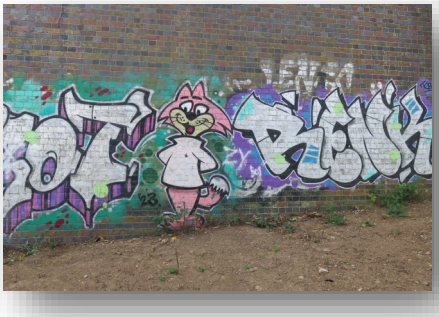


An od couple enjoying the new path

The llamas at Botany Bay Farm with the City in the distant horizon

Lynn enjoying the rest area near 'our' trees

Grand old oaks framed by our new planting



A public footpath now runs under the Rendlesham Viaduct in Enfield, connecting Hilly Fields Park and Rectory Farm, and is accessible from Strayfield Road. The historic railway viaduct is a prominent engineering landmark with fourteen arches, and a new pathway provides a way to walk through its arches, which was previously inaccessible.

This took us 2-3 years to get the access permissions agreed

ARNON

Some of the new signposting which may confuse walkers rather than assisting

‘PEACE’

The wonderful setting of our memorial oak saplings which are progressing well

DAVID

BEN

Happy times after the Park run with Raquel and Martin at Coffee Island locally

DP stayed with us for a few nights in October and we walked with him opposite , in the park

That looks so tempting

And yet another fascinating find in the woods

A lovely study of mother and son

This was a very muddy path before this board-walk was introduced

A wonderful art of chain saw wooden figures

This giant oak still com-mands respect even in its fallen state

The Bourne in it naturel state

The 'FUN GUY

Every month Michael, Roy , Bob and myself meet at one another's houses.. (wives' rapidly depart!) and this was Roy's sumptuous 'Spanish inspired' offering. The quiz almost got forgotten as we tucket into Sorrento ham, olives, Manchego cheese and chorizo crips etc

Photo History

Sometimes the people at the art galleries are more interesting that the art itself

October 2025 at Nino's in Woodford

Photo History

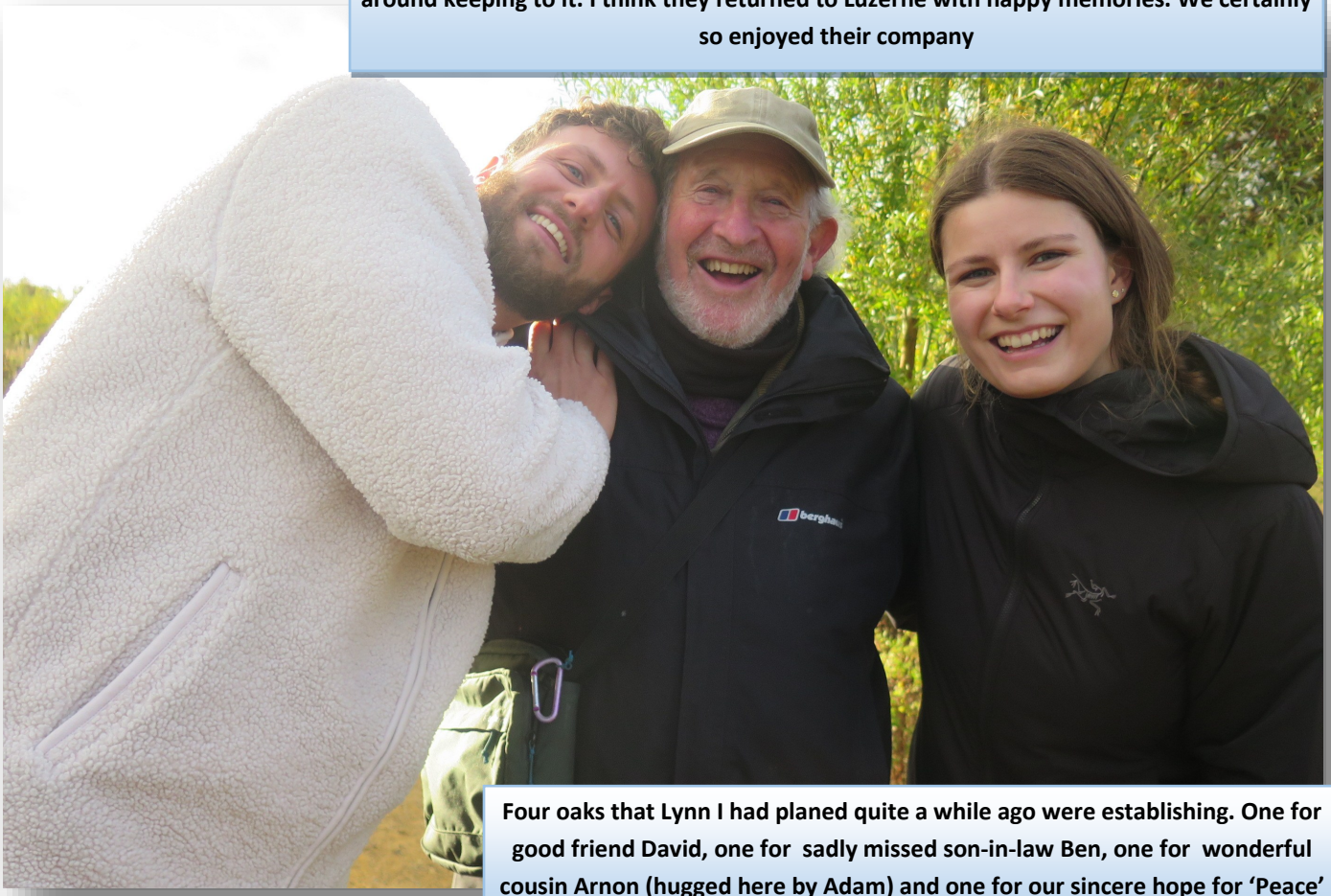
Mulching

Is the process of covering the soil with a layer of material, typically organic (like wood chips, compost, or leaf mold) or inorganic (like pebbles), to benefit plant growth. It helps suppress weeds by blocking light, retains soil moisture by reducing evaporation, and insulates plant roots from temperature extremes. Mulching also improves soil health over time by adding nutrients as organic materials decompose .

We identified the growing saplings and worked together completing the whole field.

A sunny walk in Totteridge with Vivian & Walter in October 2025

At the end of October, Adam (Arnon's son) and his lovely girlfriend Michelle stayed with us for a hectic, busy and fun three nights. We all set an agenda and rushed (successfully) around keeping to it. I think they returned to Luzerne with happy memories. We certainly so enjoyed their company

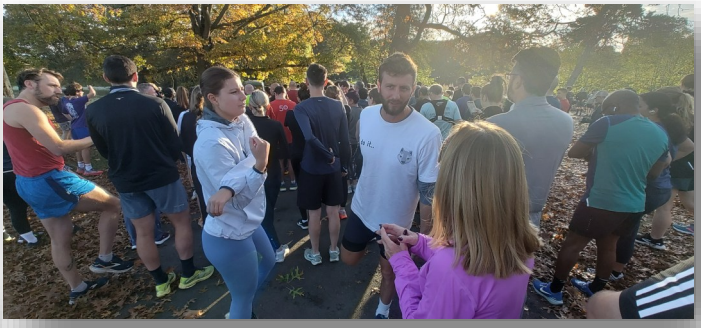


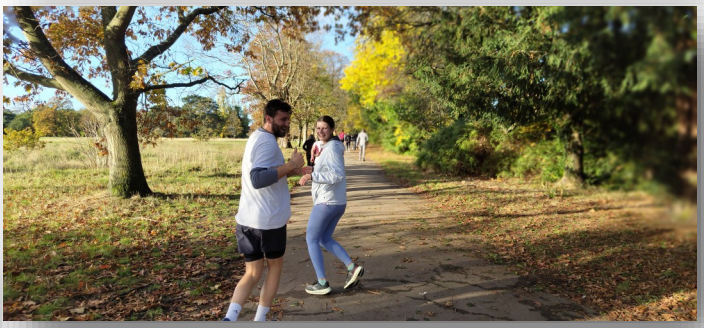
Four oaks that Lynn I had planed quite a while ago were establishing. One for good friend David, one for sadly missed son-in-law Ben, one for wonderful cousin Arnon (hugged here by Adam) and one for our sincere hope for 'Peace'

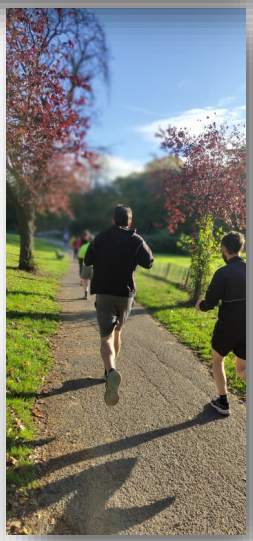
Photo History

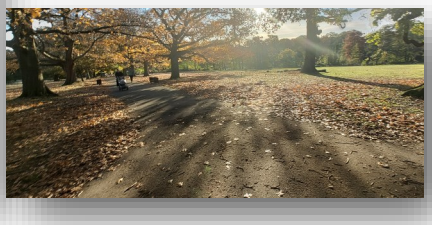
Lynn and I feel so proud that we were involved in the tree planting over many years here and now this area opened to the public two days after this walk. The valley is so beautiful and is already enjoyed by dog walkers, , cyclists, families and bird watchers. The distant city seems to emphasise its green and lovely naturel cover

The Autumn colours made it a really great day for our combined run







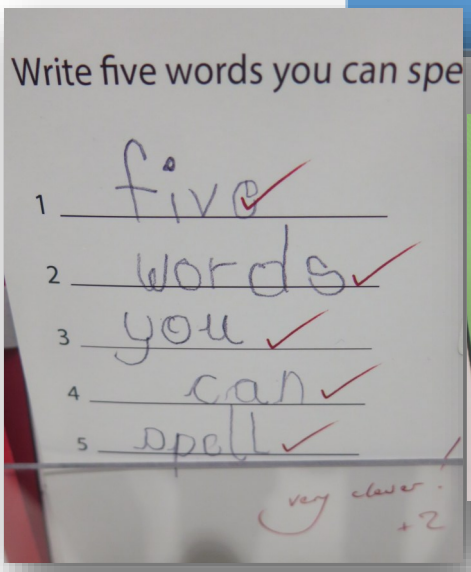


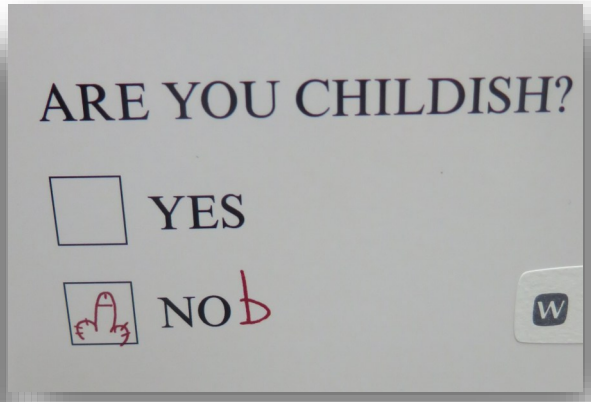
After The Park Run we went for a coffee and cake to Coffee Island, then by tube to Farmer J in Holborn. After that we walked along Kingsway, to Somerset House, across waterloo Bridge, along the south Bank crossing the river at Blackfriars Bridge. We then walked to Bank Station and took the DLR to Canary Wharf. Wow...

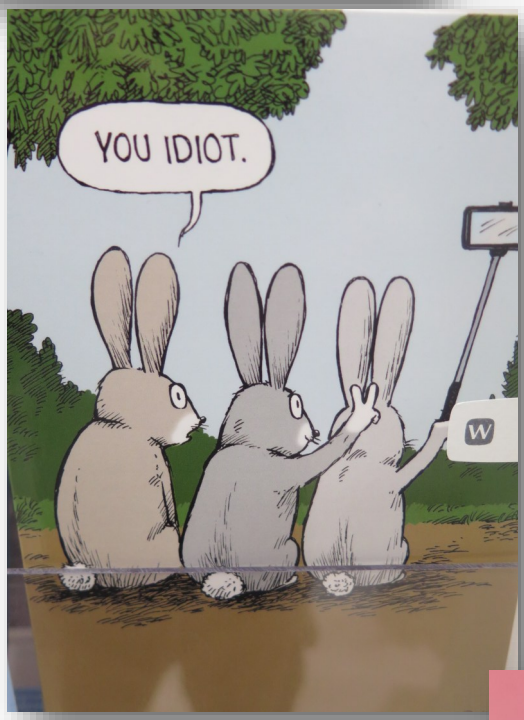
A fun breakfast together

...and then a walk in Trent park finishing at the Secret Garden which was very autumnal

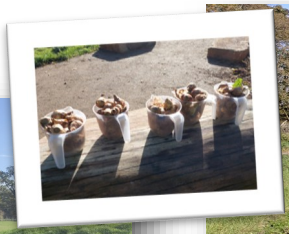
Maybe it's my weird sense of humour but when Lynn is choosing a birthday card in Pearsons, I gravitate towards the 'Humorous' section and have been caught laughing out loud...so here are a few of my favourites







...yes, I do find these funny but I told you I had a weird sense of humour

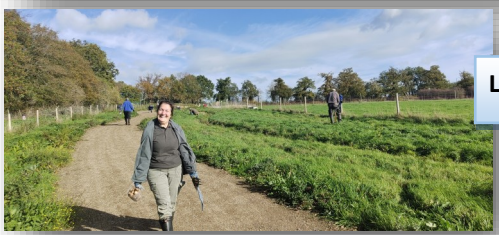


At the end of October we planted daffodils all the way down from Botany Bay Farm shop to the valley

Me

Lynn

This was followed by the first tree planting of the season

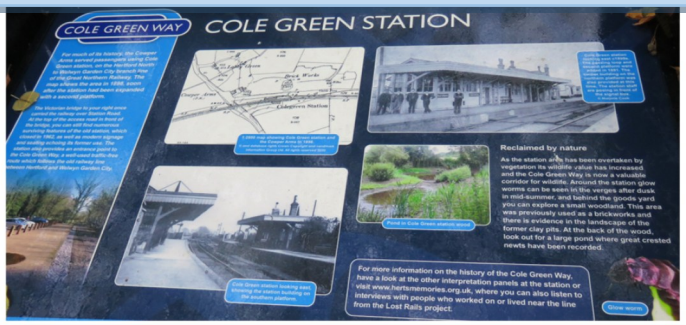


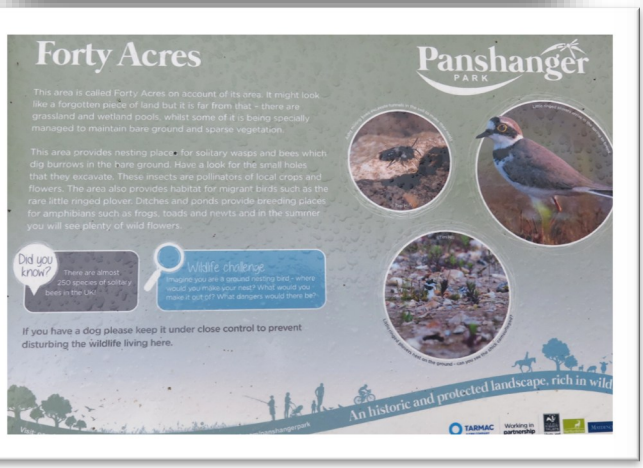
Lily

The 'Lad's ' Walk at the end of October was along the disused railway line (Cole Green/Letty Green) via Panshanger Country Park (with an incredibly muddy path to cross)

I love this shot showing our group walking in totally opposite directions (well, we are all very old!)

Owned and managed by Tarmac and located in the heart of Hertfordshire, this 1,000-acre park combines the beauty of natural landscapes with rich historical features. It opened shortly before our walk





This area provides nesting places for solitary wasps and bees which dig burrows in the bare ground. Have a look for the small holes that they excavate. These insects are pollinators of local crops and flowers. The area also provides habitat for migrant birds such as the rare little ringed plover. Ditches and ponds provide breeding places for amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts and in the summer

One of the attractive wildlife lakes

A delightful autumn walk

A wonderful old barn..we will never see farm buildings like this in the future

Alan on the left and Brighty on the right are none too keen to be photographed

Heavy duty vehicles churning up the footpath

Crossing this really muddy track left all our boots and trousers totally covered

Despite ordering all our lunches at great length adding our names for easy identification , they all came out of the kitchen without names. This may account for the 'less than happy' faces

Just prior to the start at the end of October 5k Park Run

This is how it looks when I still have a lap to do...Crowds of exhausted runners comparing times and all the marshals congratulating them

This is how it looks when I (finally) arrive. Gone are all the fast runners and more sadly, gone are most of the marshals...to tired to wait for 'the Southgate Stroller'

I guess while I am chugging along everyone else is already home having the customary Saturday ''Full English' (Even my lovely wife is home showering , having finished ages before her poor old hubby)